

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:332

ANSWERED ON:21.03.2007

ERADICATION OF BLINDNESS AND LEPROSY

Deshmukh Shri Subhash Sureshchandra; Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the Central assistance provided to the States for eradication of blindness and leprosy, particularly in backward and rural areas;
- (b) the amount released for this work so far during the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Government for utilization of the Central assistance or grants;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any monitoring cell has been set up for the purpose of evaluation of this programme; and
- (f) if so, the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 332 FOR 21ST MARCH, 2007

(a)&(b): National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) and National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) are centrally sponsored schemes uniformly in implementation in States/UTs including backward and rural areas of the country. Statements showing Central assistance released to States/UTs under NPCB and NLEP during the current financial year (2006-07) are at Annexure 'A' and 'B' respectively.

(c)&(d): Yes, Sir. Central Assistance provided under NPCB and NLEP are utilized by States/UTs as per the approved Annual Action Plan each year in accordance with the guidelines and pattern of assistance approved for these programmes during the 10th Five Year Plan.

(e)&(f): Monitoring and evaluation is a regular process under NPCB. The programme is regularly monitored at District, State, Central and Regional levels by the implementing agencies. As a part of evaluation of the programme, Cost Benefit Analysis survey, Beneficiary Assessment Survey, Evaluation of NGOs, Evaluation of IOL Training, Rapid Assessment Survey and Facility Survey were undertaken.

Under NLEP, there is an inbuilt system of monitoring of monthly epidemiological situation report at District, State and Central level.

Evaluation of the programme was carried out in the form of Leprosy Elimination Monitoring (LEM) exercise undertaken with WHO support through National Institute of Health & Family Welfare (NIHFW) to assess the programme achievements in identified indicators during the year 2002, 2003 and 2004. These exercises were carried out to assess the progress of integration of leprosy services with General Health Care System, quality of MDT services and to identify any potential issues of programme implementation.

Another independent evaluation study was also carried out through the Indian Institute of Health Management Research, Jaipur, in April-May 2005 to evaluate the programme achievement status at the close of the World Bank supported Second National Leprosy Elimination Project.

The observations and recommendations of these evaluations are being used to suitably modify programme strategy from time to time.